

Film Permitting Information

Contributed by Christina Valdez
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Application Process

1. Select your location(s). The Corps may not recommend film locations. Please contact a location company or the California Film Commission. Please supply cross streets if you plan to film in a flood channel. The EIDC and the Corps have a channel ownership guide for Los Angeles County. Corps dams do not have addresses or mailboxes. Deliver checks and other documents to our Wilshire office (between Figueroa and the 110 Fwy).
2. Call Katie Parks (Corps) at (213) 452-3399 to discuss your film project. Please leave a working fax number if you do not reach us. We will fax a copy of our film application to you. We have regular field duties and are not always in the office. Mention any plans for unusual activities as soon as possible, i.e., explosives, aircraft or stunts. We review such requests on a case-by-case basis. Feel free to attach diagrams-maps to your application. Some film projects need Corps engineering, safety and/or environmental review(s). Such projects require more review time.
3. Please return page 1 of your application with a check for the non-refundable processing fee (\$250) at least 10 working days before your first on-site day. We will call and inform you if we approved or disapproved your film application.
4. Our film clerk, Christina Valdez, (213) 452-3129 (fax 4186) can answer your questions on: date changes, insurance, fee estimates, and W-9's. She will determine the final fee charged.

First Day Additional Day(s) Crew size 25 or fewer & dagger; \$ 2,200 \$ 50 Crew size 26 or more & dagger; \$ 2,300 \$ 100 Students & Non-profits \$ 250-Corps Monitor (Damtender)* \$ 50/hour (\$100/hour Federal Holidays) same Date Changes \$ 250/hour-Vehicle, vessel or aircraft (crew or film) \$ 10/day/vehicle, vessel or aircraft same Animals \$ 10/day/head same & dagger; Does not include the \$250 processing fee
* Students and Non-profits pay full monitoring rates.

Quick Guide to Corps Film Permits

Overall - The EIDC handles our film liaison with local communities, therefore most permittees need 2 film permits, Corps & EIDC. We inform the EIDC of all Corps film permits within Los Angeles County. All film sites, except spillways, may flood. Be prepared to evacuate all people-equipment during storms. Filming in channels, i.e., the Los Angeles River, requires a 5-day rain-free window immediately before your first use day, and for each use day. We cannot turn off the water flow in flood channels. For the Los Angeles River: the 6th Street Tunnel accesses the west bank; the Figueroa Ramp the east. We have weight limits on our bridge decks-spillways. We cannot validate parking.

Fees - The Corps has reduced fees to students and non-profit groups. Fees are the same for all Corps sites - spillways and channels, as well as photography types - movie and still. Days begin at midnight. We base our film fees on a "per day" basis. We do not offer ½-day or hourly rates. Non-consecutive days/separate sites need individual permits. Please pay film fees via check, made payable to: Finance Officer, LAD. Corps Public Affairs (Floor 9) accepts couriered items M - F, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. (except Federal holidays) at 915 Wilshire, Los Angeles. We do not recommend mailing checks via the U.S. Postal Service because of the long delivery time. Our EIN number is: 95-6535142. Call the EIDC for their fees (323) 957-1000.

Scouts-Tech Scouts - Please scout on your own but do not enter flooded areas. To scout Sepulveda, walk to the "pillbox" on the dam, south of Burbank Boulevard (immediately before the southbound 405 on-ramp). We do not unlock the second, inner gate for scouts. If you want Corps gates unlocked/or exclusive site use please call Film Liaison and leave your number. The Damtender will call you if he is available. Occasionally our Damtenders are not available for scouts/monitoring. Intense scouting may require use day or monitor fees. Katie Parks arranges weekday, tech scouts to discuss natural resources/access issues.

Insurance - That the permittee shall obtain a standard liability insurance policy in the amount of \$500,000 per person in any one claim and an aggregate limit of \$2,000,000. Property damage will be at least \$100,000. The Government shall be named as coinsured. A copy of the bond and insurance policy or a Certificate of Insurance must be furnished at the time the signed permit is issued.

“Use Days” - These are your exclusive site use days. Storing your equipment-supplies on Corps lands constitutes a use day. You MAY NOT use a site (including leaving supplies, such as dumpsters) before/after your use day(s).

Date/Time Changes - CALL Christina Valdez, (213) 452-3129 to inquire about changing your dates/times after we approved your permit (back-up, Joyce Fredholm, (213) 452-3166). We need sufficient notice to be able to coordinate with our monitors.

Corps Monitors - Some sites/activities require Corps monitors (Damtenders). If we assign monitors, licensees pay for monitoring for film activity hours falling outside our Damtenders usual duty hours, M-Th, 6 a.m.- 4:30 p.m., at \$50.00/hour (Federal holidays \$100/hour). Christina can supply “W-9's" or invoices to pay Corps monitors. Please be prepared to pay the Corps’ monitor(s) by check before departing your film site. At Sepulveda, our Damtenders will arrive at the times-dates listed on your permit to unlock Corps gates - please be on time.

Downloadable Documents:

- 1) New Film Fee Schedule (44KB Word Doc)
- 2) Film Permit Application (57KB Word Doc)